

Y N E W S

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Harris Fine Arts Center Celebrates 30 Years of Art, Music and Theatre

BYU's Harris Fine Arts Center will celebrate 30 years of bringing the best in art, music and theatre to Utah audiences with a series of gala events tonight (March 24).

The building—which houses the Departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre and Film, and Communications as well as classrooms, offices, galleries, television and radio broadcast facilities, three theatres and two concert halls—was finished in 1965 during the administration of Ernest L. Wilkinson.

The building, known as the "H-FAC" to many students and faculty members, was named after Franklin S. Harris, who was president of the university from 1921 to 1945.

The campus community is invited to attend a special open house tonight from 7-10 p.m. in room E-400 on the building's south end. "Each department in the college will be creating a display of events in that department for the past 30 years," said Kenneth V. Crossley, director of arts production for the HFAC and coordinator of the commemoration.

In addition, the public is also welcome at an anniversary dance to be conducted from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the B. F. Larsen Gallery area featuring the big band sound of the Ray Smith Dance Orchestra. Both the open house and the dance are free.

The Department of Theatre and Film will honor the anniversary with opening night of its Pardoe Theatre production of "Into the Woods," Stephen Sondheim's sometimes irreverent look at favorite fairy tales. The Music Department will celebrate with two performances by one of its most acclaimed ensembles, the Men's Chorus.

In addition, the Opheus Wind Quintet, the BYU faculty woodwind ensemble, will be featured in a free performance at 7:30 p.m. in the Madsen Recital Hall, and the

Theatre and Film Department's production of Horton Foote's "The Roads to Home" continues that evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Margetts Arena Theatre.

Both the March 24 production of "Into the Woods" and the Men's Chorus performances are sold out. Tickets are still available at the Fine Arts Ticket Office, ext. 8-4322, for future performances of "Into the Woods," which will run through April 8, as well as "The Roads to Home," which will continue through April 1.

During a special ceremony prior to the opening of "Into the Woods," Dean Bruce

with developing annual musical theatre productions, a graduate program, and a long-time association with the USO that took BYU performing groups all over the world for more than two decades. He also significantly increased the number of students, faculty and productions."

"We're very pleased that this great individual who had such a profound influence on our department and on the planning and realization of the HFAC and a man who was beloved by his students and peers will be remembered," said Theatre and Film Department Chair Eric Fielding.

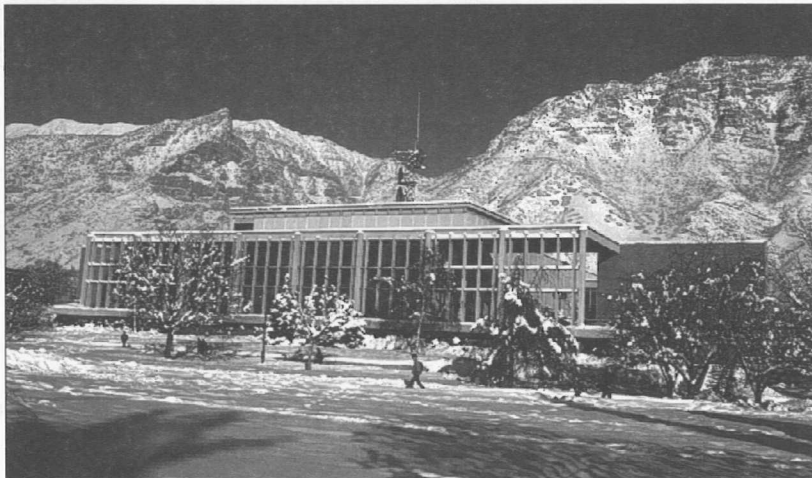
A special photographic exhibit by BYU design professor Wallace Barrus documenting 30 years of productions directed by Dr. Hansen will be on display in the B. F. Larsen Gallery during the event.

President Franklin S. Harris is credited with organizing the BYU College of Fine Arts in 1925, with Gerrit de Jong—for whom the 1,400-seat de Jong Concert Hall is named—as its first dean.

On April 3, 1965—certainly a stellar day in the university's history—President Wilkinson supervised not only the dedication of the Harris Fine Arts Center but also the Ernest L. Wilkinson Center. Both buildings were dedicated by President Joseph Fielding Smith, who was then president of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

Designed by William L. Pereira and Associates, the five-level H-shaped HFAC sits on two acres of land and comprises 283,500 square feet of floor space. At the time of its completion, it was the largest building on campus and was acclaimed by the architects as "the most comprehensive center of its kind ever commissioned by an American university."

—Cecelia Fielding



Christensen of the College of Fine Arts and Communications will officiate at a ceremony naming room B-201, a large rehearsal room adjacent to the Pardoe Theatre, as the Harold I. Hansen Rehearsal Hall.

The dedication honors the long-time BYU Drama Department chair and director of the Hill Cumorah Pageant who worked with President Wilkinson in the design and completion of the HFAC.

"Dr. Hansen was hired by President Wilkinson in 1952 to replace T. Earl Pardoe, who was retiring as chair of the Department of Speech," said Crossley.

"During Dr. Hansen's 14 years as chair, the BYU theatre program grew in size and stature," said Crossley. "He is credited